*Member.*—The present building was put up by the people.

*Dewan.*—If the present building in the Taluk Cutcherry compound was put up by the people, Government must in fairness put up the new building at their own cost. I shall issue the necessary orders.

*Member.*—As regards the Lalam-Todupuzha road, the Public Works Department has taken up 6 miles of the road and sanction has to be given only for the remaining portion.

*Dewan.*—What is the total length?

*Member.*—16 miles.

*Dewan.*—I shall look into the matter.

**83. Means of communication in Muvattupuzha.**

*Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman* (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) submitted that the condition of the people of the interior parts of the State was deplorable owing to lack of means of communication and the Government did not render the necessary facilities for improving those means. The Member then prayed that the railway should be extended from Alwaye along Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha and should be connected with Kottarakara. The Main Central road should be metalled and some roads should be constructed in the northern *pakuthies* of the Muvattupuzha taluk. Government had sanctioned the preliminary survey in connection with the extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil. He had no quarrel with that ; all that he meant to say was that the claims of North Travancore in that matter were more urgent. The Dewan's opening address referred to the linking of Cochin by a railway. What the Member wished to say was that the connecting point should be Alwaye whence it should run to Cochin. Whether the Cochin Harbour scheme matured or not, the railway question should be taken up. People were prepared to take shares if a debenture loan was raised. The extension of the railway might take time, but the other need might be supplied at once. There were some minor roads about which representations had been made year after year. People going from Eramallur and Varapatti in Kotamangalam to Vazhakulam market were put to great inconvenience for want of a road. Many representations had been made about this. A survey had been ordered, but no work was done. The Dewan, when he visited the place, had promised to issue orders for undertaking the survey before long. Several other roads were also required. The policy of the Government of late had been to require the people to construct the roads, and to erect bridges from the State funds. This was of course a sound policy. But it should not apply to the northern taluks which were very backward in regard to communications. The Member, in conclusion, once again emphasised the need for a road connecting Ernakulam and Varapatti.

*Dewan's reply.*—About 9 miles of the M. C. road remain to be metalled. Many portions of the road are being put in order. An estimate has been sanctioned for one mile this year. In some portions deviations are necessary and works can be done only after the deviations are made.

As regards the railway, I cannot say anything definite now. There are many matters to be considered in that connection. I have referred to this in my address.

In regard to the Kotamangalam-Vazhakulam road, I have already ordered that a survey should be made. This must have been finished now. What has to be done next is to acquire the lands. We shall have to see what portion will be surrendered by the people free of cost and for what portion compensation will have to be paid. An estimate will then be prepared.

*In re* the other two roads referred to by you, it is seen that a sum of about Rs. 15,000 has to be spent on them before they could be taken over by Government. The estimate for the Kotamangalam-Vazhakulam road will be ordered to be prepared immediately.

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